

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN EGOR COMMUNITY

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ABSTRACT

The research design of the study is a survey that examined the problems associated with the implementation of community development in Egor, Edo State. The community have suffered lack of development and provision of social amenities and infrastructure. The study used a proportional sample of 250 persons for the study in the area. Their response to the 15-item questionnaire were analyzed using a simple percentage. It was found that lack of initiative, problem of administration and funding are some of the problems affecting Egor community in Egor local government area of Edo State. Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made, that there should be fund raising committee to ensure enough money for execution of projects and taxing power should be invested on local authorities for proper implementation of projects among others in order to move the community forward.

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Community development activities are usually carried out by members of the community. The participation of the community members to community development is very vital concern. Community development programmes are usually carried out through communal effort for the overall development of the community and benefit of all. This implies that community members organize themselves to initiate and execute self-help project so as to enhance meaningful development. Thus the term "development" is often applied to such phenomena as progress, growth, change, industrialization and modernization.

However, development is a goal that every individual, social group, community or nation strives to achieve. It is all encompassing, embracing the transformation of economic, social, political and cultural aspects of the society leading to improvement in quality of life of the people. According to Omoruyi (2008), a community is commonly and popularly viewed in terms of all the people or a group of people living within a specific geographical area such as a village, a town or a city, a neighbourhood or even a whole state. In the same vein, Oduaran (1994) observed that this definition emphasizing the issue of geographical locality draws attention away from modern development activities which breakdown geographical boundaries. It tends to draw attention away from modern development communication facilities which has tended to reduce the world into a global village. Therefore, it is imperative to look at some of the factors that may be affecting the growth of community development programmes in Egor Local Government area of Edo State which can be traced to inadequate funding, administrative problem, political instability, corruption, lack of initiative and insensitivity to societal problems.

Omoruyi (2008) opined that two types of resources are very crucial and important in programme implementation. These are human and material resources. The question of how to identify and raise adequate resources for implementation of programme is a central theme in programme development circle. This is also supported by Adebayo (1990) he blames the ineffectiveness of local administration on lack of low funding and low quality of staff. According to him this led the local governments into vicious circle of poverty because of inadequate funding. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 6th Edition, initiative means a new plan for dealing with a particularly problem or for achieving a particular purpose. This is what many community lack. According to Jhingan (1977), weak administrative framework

is a big hindrance to economic development. Once an administrative framework is characterized with inefficient bureaucracies, improper management, inadequate supervision and in conflict resolution of important issues, it is bound to fail on its programmes of activities towards meaningful and sustainable development in that particular administration.

Summarily, community development is very vital in moving the community ahead and for better quality of life.

PROBLEM OF STUDY

It has been observed that many communities today are facing a lot of problem in their journey to progress and better quality of life. They rely so much on the effort of government to provide for them all the necessary basic amenities that are very difficult to come by, despite series of public enlightenment campaign made by government to encourage community development among communities. This perhaps may have been as a result of many factors such as administrative, lack of funding and lack of initiative. The problem of this study therefore is to what extent does these factors affect community development in Egor community in Egor local government area of Edo State.

PURPOSE OF STUDY

- 1) To determine the extent to which lack of funding affect community development in Egor community.
- 2) To determine the extent to which lack of initiative affect community development in Egor.
- 3) To determine the extent to which administrative factor constitute a problem to community development in Egor.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1) Does inadequate funding affect the execution of vital programmes in Egor community?
- 2) Does lack of initiative affect community development activities in the area?
- 3) Does administrative factor constitute a problem to the development of Egor community?

PROCEDURE

The research design of the study is a survey. The population of the study consist of all the council staff, non-council staff, community leaders, community members and individuals in Egor Local Government community. A sample of 250 persons were randomly selected from these various strata using a stratified simple sampling technique.

Instrument used for data collection was the questionnaire designed to elicit the needed responses to facilitate the analysis of the research questions. So a total of 15 items were constructed and the response format followed the modified Likert Scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) or Strongly Disagree (SD). The instrument was reviewed by some experts and their suggestions where incorporated into the final instrument to ensure the construct validity. A plit-half measurement technique was used to ascertain the instrument reliability. This was found to be 0.73.

The researchers personally administered the questionnaire to the respondents who were asked to respond immediately to the questionnaire and return to the Administrators, the completed questionnaire were collected and the analysis of simple percentages and table was used for data analysis.

Research Question I: Does inadequate funding affect execution of Vital projects?

Table 1: Funding As a Factor

Variable	Responses	Percentages (%)
Strongly agree	88	42
Agreed	78	35
Disagreed	40	10
Strongly disagree	44	13
Total	250	100%

From the above table, 42% and 35% respectively of the respondents indicate Strongly agreed and agreed that inadequate funding is a problem in executing community projects, while a total of 23% disagreed and strongly disagreed. The implications is that community projects will be difficult to execute without finance.

Research Question II: Does lack of initiative affect community Development in the area?

Table 2: Initiative Factor

Variable	Responses	Percentages (%)
Strongly agree	42	11
Agreed	49	16
Disagreed	82	38
Strongly disagree	77	35
Total	250	100%

The above table shows that 38% of the total sample and 35% of the sample disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that lack of initiative and comprehensive hinders meaningful development in the area. While 11% and 16% of the total sample strongly agreed and agreed.

Research Question III: Does administrative Factors affect Community Development in Egor Community?

Table 3: Administrative Factor

Variable	Responses	Percentages (%)
Strongly agree	42	11
Agreed	49	16
Disagreed	82	38
Strongly disagree	77	35
Total	250	100%

The above table shows that 21% of the respondents strongly agreed and 41% agreed making a sum total of 62% of the respondents who agreed that administrative factor constitute a problem to community development programmes in the area.

The data collected, showed that only 13% and 25% respectively disagreed and strongly disagreed. Also, the responses elicited by the respondents has showed that Egor community have been bedevilled with the problem of administrative, leading to gross mis-management.

DISCUSSION

The analysis of data showed that administrative and lack of finance are the major problems affecting the development of Egor community in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State. This is supported by Adebayo (1990), who believes that bureaucracy is "a process and element of administration" it is a process of administration in the sense that, it is a method of conducting public affairs by public administrators. However, it is imperative to stress the fact that bureaucracy can also become a curse on public administration. This may happen if adherence to rules and regulations which supposed to be a means to an end becomes an end-in-itself. Also Adebayo (1990) blames the ineffectiveness of local administration on lack of low funding and low quality of staff. To him these problems led the local governments into vicious circle of poverty because of inadequate funding. However, for local government to function properly, there is the need for appropriate funds to execute all the vital projects. Also the problem of initiative is a vital issue that is affecting Egor community development programmes in Egor local government area of Edo State. According to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 6th Edition, initiative means a new plan for dealing with a particular problem or for achieving a particular purpose. With this definition, idealism that ought to develop by the local government council is neglected by them causing hindrance in the growth of community development programmes. Initiative programme ought to help to enhance development and combat unemployment, urban-rural migration, indiscipline, idleness etc.

All these may have influenced the community development of Egor community in Egor local government area of Edo State.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This paper has shown based on the findings of this study that funding, lack of initiative and undue bureaucracy affects community development in Egor community in Egor local government area of Edo State. The implication for this is that the community will not attract settlement centre by the youth who could contribute to economic development.

Therefore in order to address these problems the following recommendations are thereby made.

- 1) There should be fund raising committee to ensure enough money for execution of projects.
- 2) Again, local government revenue should be restructured so that taxing power be invested on local authorities for proper implementation of projects.
- 3) The delay in the passing of annual local government budget should be revisited for quick approval.
- 4) The ineffective bureaucratic structure should be removed for smooth running of local communities by the local authority.

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